

District IV Advisory Board
Meeting Minutes
March 3, 2004
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The **District IV Advisory Board Meeting** was held at 7:00 p.m. at the Stanley Neighborhood Center. In attendance were six (6) District Advisory Board members, seven (7) staff and approximately five (5) citizens with two (2) signing in.

Members Present

Doug Leeper
Jim Benton
Tom Engleman
Ed Koon
Damon Burrows
Rex Gray
Council Member Paul Gray

Staff Present

Kay Johnson, Environmental Health
Don , Environmental Health
Officer Mallard, Police
Rob Younkin, Public Works
Officer Roets, Police
Brandon Kauffman, City Manager's Office

Members Absent

Wayne Wells
Brian Dehler
Iola Crandal
Jerry McGinty
Brandon Rogney

Guests

Listed on Page 5

Order of Business

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m.

The agenda for the March 3, 2004 meeting was approved as written.

The minutes for February 18, 2003 were approved as written.

Public Agenda

The Public Agenda allows members of the public to present matters to the District Advisory Board. Each presentation is limited to a period of five minutes unless extended by the Board.

No items were presented to the board.

Staff Presentations

Community Police

Officer Mallard, Police, stated that officers had recently completed training concerning homeland security issues. Officers were trained in their abilities to respond to weapons of mass destruction to better serve the City of Wichita. There was also a recent outbreak of BB gun vandalisms causing damage to vehicles in west Wichita. Wichita police officers were currently working with the Goddard and Maize Police Department's to help alleviate concerns of area citizens and solve the problem. Mallard stated that Sunflower Neighborhood Association will be meeting tomorrow and their biggest concern is auto vandalisms. Individuals have been breaking windows for cigarettes, coats, and anything of value that they can get their hands on. Mallard warned people to keep everything in their vehicles out of sight because people will break in for anything that they see available in the open.

Officer Roets, Police, stated that auto thefts have slowly been decreasing due to the warmer weather. Police have been monitoring activity of a group that has been identified as being involved in the car thefts. Police are working with three other beats in order to monitor the group. Roets stated that Officer William Stevens has been working with a new business watch group and that alerts businesses in the 31 and Seneca area by sending out faxes when crimes occur.

Action: Receive & File

Recertification of Paratransit Eligible Passengers

Forrest Naggley, Transit, stated that since 1992 there has been a 322% increase in the number of rides for ADA paratransit eligible individuals. The costs associated with the paratransit service over this period of time of seen an increase from \$400,000 to \$1.7 million. To comply with ADA regulations the city must every three years recertify the citizens who utilize these services. These recertification interviews will be based upon an applicant's cognitive and physical abilities.

Naggley stated that the present application process provides limited amount of information regarding a citizens disability, does not include questions about the clients functional abilities, it is a self-certification process that is verified by personal physicians, and it grants unconditional eligibility to 98% of those who apply.

The Mobility Advisory Task Force was formed to develop the Wichita Transit Mobility Plan which, include representatives from: City of Wichita, Sedgwick County Department of Aging and local services agencies. The MATF recommended the following for the paratransit system:

1. In-person interviews conducted by a third-party
2. Functional assessments conducted by a third-party

3. Eliminate self certification
4. Environmental barrier analysis conducted by Wichita Transit staff
5. Use new eligibility application developed by Wichita Transit staff
6. New travel-training program
7. Sensitivity and disability awareness training

Naggley stated that the total recertification costs for third party contracting would be \$90,000 per year. It would take three years to recertify individuals utilizing the services. The recertification would result in costs savings of \$240,000 over a three-year period and decrease ridership by 15-20%.

Council Member Gray opened the meeting for questions from DAB members.

Ed Koon asked if the costs savings would outweigh the benefits of contracting with a third party to conduct the interviews. Naggley stated that the benefits of recertification would help to reduce the number of people who do not qualify under ADA. Koon stated that the savings did not match the cost and mentioned that the ADA does not limit the people who do not have disabilities to ride the system.

Doug Leeper asked if an individual has a degrading disease would they automatically qualify so that they would not have to go through the recertification process again. Leeper felt that individuals with these kinds of diseases should automatically qualify for the service. **Naggely** stated that not all would have to qualify every three years. **Leeper** then asked if there was anyway to distinguish individuals by income. **Naggley** stated that this would be a form of discrimination that the ADA does not allow. **Leeper** asked how much citizens pay now for these services. **Naggely** stated two dollars.

Council Member Gray then opened the meeting for public discussion.

Lyndon Drew of 1825 S Vine stated he was here representing the Catholic Charties for their Foster Grandparents program. Drew stated individuals involved in an afterschool program they sponsor utilize the city's paratransit services to participate in the program. Drew stated that ADA does not limit the amount or types of people who may use the busing systems. Drew works with people to train them on how to utilize the fixed bus route system and he said that it takes a fair amount of time for people to understand how to use the system. Drew stated to the board that they should think about and consider the welfare of its citizens.

Council Member Gray closed the public discussion and opened discussion for the board.

Council Member Gray asked if any portion of federal dollars were allocated for the operating budget. **Naggley** stated that federal dollars are restricted for use only in capital purchases such as buses and do not subsidize any operations. **Gray** stated that paratransit dollars are funded strictly by Wichita taxpayers dollars. Gray further noted that if the Council does not make a decision and impose limitations on these services then this could

open the door for more people to abuse the system. Standards must be set or the numbers may greatly increase because people will see that they can use the system for their own advantages.

Jim Benton asked if there would be a possibility of having ID cards for individuals that conduct charitable services such as Catholic Charities. Naggley stated that the Council would then have to develop specifications on who would qualify.

Koon stated that he was not opposed to screening but was concerned with the procedure and that the cost would outweigh the benefits. **Council Member Gray** stated that savings would possibly be seen after the third year.

Koon also felt that the number of people were completely unknown as the how many would not requalify. Naggley stated that about 20% of people may not qualify and about 10% of people who apply will not be accepted. These numbers are based upon national trends from the various cities/counties across the nation that have conducted such services.

Leeper asked if this would be an open bid process. **Naggley** stated yes, and that a request for proposals would be written with the qualifications and how much to spend.

Leeper (Englemann) motioned to recommended approval with an emphasis on training passengers, consultant last only three years, and for consultant to develop criteria so that in-house recertification could be utilized the next time. The motion passed 5-1(Koon).

Action: Recommend approval of recertification with emphasis on training passengers, consultant last only three years, and consultant train staff to handle process next time.

KDHE/City of Wichita: Water Project – 37th and Broadway

Kay Johnson, Environmental Health, stated that the groundwater contamination began when a Dry Cleaner business dumped pollutants on the ground, which seeped down into the groundwater and has been moving southwest through the district. Johnson stated that the city will be reimbursed for the water supply line through the Dry Cleaner's Trust Fund located in the Kansas Department of Health and Environment. The total cost for the project is estimated to be \$260,000.

Rob Younkin, Public Works, stated that the city must purchase right of way to complete the project. **Younkin** stated that the city should not see any opposition from the area residents since it will improve the value of their property and also supply them with public water.

Leeper asked how long it would be for the contamination to be cleaned up. **Johnson** stated that it would be hard to tell without KDHE estimates, but it could take anywhere from 10 to 40 years depending upon how far the contamination moves.

Council Member Gray stated that since the water supply is in District 3 that the DAB should receive and file.

Action: Receive and File.

Board Agenda

No items were presented to the board.

Council Member Gray asked for any further issues. With none presented, the meeting was adjourned at 8:25 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

**Brandon Kauffman
District IV Neighborhood Assistant**

Guests

Address

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Lyndon Drew

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